

Blacksburg Police Department FY 2003-2004 Annual Report

Since 1798, the Blacksburg Police Department has been providing Virginia's largest town with professional and effective law enforcement services. In 1993 the department earned and has since maintained the prestigious honor of being a Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency, meeting or exceeding all required national standards as determined by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Through a continuing process of self-assessment, review of citizen satisfaction surveys and regular on-site inspections by members of the Commission, we have been able to demonstrate our commitment to excellence of service to the citizens of Blacksburg.

In the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year, our officers responded to 22, 248 calls for service and reported a crime clearance rate of 44%. We continue to engaged in numerous criminal and traffic safety enforcement initiatives that include Operator's License Check Points, DUI patrols, Alcoholic Beverage Control law enforcement and speed reduction efforts. To accomplish our safety and enforcement objectives, the Blacksburg Police Department utilizes Mobile Speed Display Units, mobile and hand-held RADAR units, in-car video systems and other specialized equipment. We also aggressively seek grant funding to enhance these and other efforts. Partnering with the Fire and Rescue departments, we have successfully established and implemented an Emergency Response Team. This team of highly trained professionals works to strengthen our homeland defense strategies and responds to high-risk situations on a 24/7 basis. Working closely with the County Administrator, we obtained necessary funding through Homeland Security Grants and grow closer to completing the implementation of a wireless 911 Communications System. In this fiscal year, a new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System was activated and will greatly enhance overall departmental efficiency as we continue to receive and process well over 300,000 pieces of information annually. Additionally, we provide active assistance to the Neighborhood Enhancement Program in order to more effectively respond to neighborhood issues and concerns.

The Blacksburg Police Department is devoted to establishing positive, long-lasting and mutually productive relationships with our citizens. Dedicated to the proven concepts and practices of community policing, we strive to remain open and accessible to everyone. We utilize a multi-faceted approach to fulfill our community outreach responsibilities that includes active Bicycle and Motorcycle patrols; an integral part of our safety and enforcement efforts. In cooperation with Montgomery County Schools, our D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and School Resource Officers are in daily contact with our youth from grades K – 12, resulting in a strong relationship with our students while facilitating a safer school environment. The Crime Prevention Unit works diligently to provide on-demand and proactive prevention education programs to citizens of all ages in an effort to help our community maintain high levels of safety, reduce the opportunities for crime to occur and improve our quality of life. Our twice-yearly, 10-week Citizen Police Academy continues to excel in educating members of our community who seek to learn about and experience each facet of our services, programs and operations.

Throughout the year the employees of the Police Department work in unison with our citizens to support worthy causes. This fiscal year, we again provided assistance to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Virginia Special Olympics and helped Blacksburg High School students deliver holiday food baskets to needy families. We also collected and

distributed food and gifts to other disadvantaged families in our area during the holiday seasons. As a year-round service, we also provided and installed numerous child safety seats, free of charge, to indigent families from this and other communities.

Every day of the year, we seek and take advantage of any and all opportunities to demonstrate our ceaseless commitment to the community we so proudly serve.